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## It's a Matter of Time and Heart Sinhala & Tamil Aluth Avurudu

In the fullness of the bak maha, (the month of April, the month of abundance and prosperity), the Prince of Peace Indradeva ( sun god) comes to earth bringing peace and happiness to mankind. Nature responds with abundance – flowers on every bush and vine, trees laden with ripening fruit. Plentiful harvest is the reward of hard work for the human kind. It is no wonder that it is a time of celebration.

This is also the time when the sun moves from the Meena Rashiya (House of Pisces) to the Mesha Rashiya (House of Aries) in the celestial sphere. Time, interpreted according to astrological charts pertaining to and guiding the destiny of the country, plays an important role. It is the time when Sri Lankans begin celebrating Aluth Avurudu (in Sinhala) and Puththandu ( in Tamil). It is a time to honour the common destiny of the diverse people that call Sri Lanka home.

The ending of the old year, and the beginning of the new year, occur several hours apart from one another. This period is referred to as the nona gathe (neutral period). During this time people are encouraged to refrain from material pursuits, and engage solely in religious activities and traditional games.

The emphasis on time using the astrological charts is an interesting phenomenon. There is a proper time for everything- to stop work, to start work, to cook food and to eat food, to bathe, to wash hair and to oil it, to visit family and friends and to play. Interestingly they are the routine, mundane tasks of everyday life. Delving deeper beyond the superficiality of observing merely another tradition, the emphasis on time is an indicator of the importance placed on punctuality. Embedding it in astrology elevates time to the realms of divinity.

The new year is incomplete without the anointing of head with oil- hisa thel gema. Nanu (medicated shampoo) and oil are important ingredients according to Ayurveda, the ancient medical practices, of promoting health.

It is clear that customs and rituals associated with the new year are those that promote, health, harmony and well-being. Goodwill, promoted through community activities of sports, religious activities and family time around rituals and customs, is the antidote for stress. Family as the foundation of community is subtly emphasized in the leadership roles played by the mother and the father and the respect given to the elders and affection shown to the children in the activities.

In the community the mutual exchanging of traditional food of kevu, kiribath and plantains is an opportunity to share good will and commit to harmonious living. Petty rivalries are forgiven and forgotten in the spirit of aluth avurudu.



The value of paying respect to elders is found underlying all aspects of New Year celebrations. The link between generations are strengthened by ganu denu- exchanging of bulath (betal leaf), money and other gifts. Aluth Avurudu indeed is not mere ritual. It is an enactment of meaningful living.

**Sugee Kannangara**

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If you are interested in being a guest editor, please contact [brisbaneradio@yahoo.com.au](mailto:brisbaneradio@yahoo.com.au)

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*New Faces*

**One of the latest to join the Brisbane 4EB community is Ravinath Atugoda who is following a Bachelor's degree in Accounting and Finance at Griffith University . Just 20 years old, Ravinath is one of the young and enthusiastic members and already shown interest in working in the Sri Lankan community. He hails from Matale where he studied at St Thomas's College and excelled in cricket, captaining the school cricket team at every year level, from under 13 to the first eleven (under 19). He was selected as one of the best district players and was selected for the North central cricket team in 2002/2003. He also represented the Sri Lanka Academic Cricket team in 2002/2003. He is a fun loving and a community conscious person and he hopes to do well in his studies at Griffith. He is interested in the Arts and spends his spare time drawing pictures or listening to classical music. He is also a fan of collecting amazing pictures.**



**News for Film Buffs**

Jayalath Manorathna and Damitha Abeyrathna won the awards for the best Television actor and the actress for the year 2007. The awards were given by the Department of Cultural Affairs. "Katu Imbula" won the award for best TV drama and its director Sudath Rohana became the best director for the year. Natasha Perera and Thushara Chamikara won the best child actress and actor awards. Lifelong service to TV media was given to Titus Thotawatte for his great contribution to the field.



## Children's Corner

### The Pretty Rose

By Natalie Liyanage

Once there was a pretty rose. Each day people came to see it, because it was so pretty. One day the pretty rose was gone. The people saw the person with the pretty rose. So the people called the police. The person that stole the pretty rose was too fast for the police. So the police started to lay a trap. The person that stole the pretty rose got stuck in the trap and the police got the pretty rose back. The police put the pretty rose on a building so no one would get it. And they all lived happily ever after.

### The Owl and the Frog

By Natalie Liyanage

Once upon a time, there lived a bunch of fairies. They were very kind. One day, the fairies started to scream because their house was going to be chopped. Before long, a frog came. The frog said to one of the fairies, "Why are you screaming like a monster?" The fairy said, "Because our house is going to be chopped." The frog said, "I can help you. I will tell the wise old owl. She will help you." So the frog told the owl what had happened. The owl told the frog to tell the woodcutters to stop, so the frog told the woodcutters to stop chopping the fairies' house. Then the owl and the frog became best friends and they lived happily ever after.



Natalie is seven years old and is in Grade 2, MacGregor Primary School, Queensland

*We welcome contributions from children of any age. Send us your letters, stories, poems, drawings etc. We will make every effort to publish them in future issues.*

### Sri Lankan Business Leaders Visit Brisbane

A group of Sri Lankan business leaders, mainly from the regions outside Colombo, visited Brisbane under the auspices of International Alert, University of Queensland and Brisbane City Council. The purpose of the visit was to meet and present their case to the Sri Lankan business diaspora in Brisbane. During their stay workshops were held at the Brisbane City Council building on George Street.

International Alert has been working with organisations such as Business for Peace Alliance in Sri Lanka, using their peace building methodology addressing the root causes of conflict such as lack of economic opportunities and youth unemployment in the regions.

Business for Peace Alliance (BPA) is a regional business network in Sri Lanka working with the vision "Peace and prosperity for ALL regions and communities living in harmony throughout a united Sri Lanka where social diversity and heritage are respected and preserved". The members of BPA belong to the chambers of commerce in various regions in Sri Lanka.

The delegates were mainly from various regions from Sri Lanka such as Hambantota, Badulla, Kegalle, Ratnapura and Moneragla. They all have successful business ventures working in harmony with the communities around them. All had moving stories of courage and perseverance.

**Wimal Kannangara**



**Arthur C Clarke**



Sir Arthur C Clarke, Sri Lanka's best known resident guest, passed away last month. He celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on December 16, 2007. Sir Arthur was a man of many talents with diverse interests. He shot to fame with his accurate prediction of the advent of the communications satellite, way back in 1945, at a time such ideas were dismissed out of hand as fanciful and far-fetched. Sir Arthur's passion for undersea exploration brought him to Sri Lanka in the early 1950s and in 1956 he decided to settle down in the island. He founded his diving company, "Underwater Safaris Ltd" in 1959 thus introducing professional diving and underwater tourism to Sri Lanka.

His pioneering effort to present to the world the global satellite system brought him numerous honours including the 1982 Marconi International Fellowship, a gold medal of the Franklin Institute, Professorship of Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmadabad among many others. Furthermore he was nominated for the noble prize in 1994. In appreciation of his contribution, the geostationary orbit at 36,000 kilometers above the equator was named 'The Clarke Orbit' by the International Astronomical Union.

Sir Arthur was a giant in the international literary scene. He has written over 100 books, and he is considered a founding father of the modern science fiction genre and it's unlikely that any upcoming writer could match his prolific output and the scope of work. His *2001: A Space Odyssey* remains an all-time favourite for its film interpretation and the futuristic computer HAL (fast becoming a reality), his other books have dealt with subject as diverse as the terraformation of Mars (a breathable atmosphere and a bearable temperature) and space elevators. While advocating the Man should explore new worlds, Sir Arthur made it clear that we should protect our planet for the time being. He always urged his fellow beings to give up the addiction to oil and move on to renewable energy sources. When he was interviewed by the BBC on his 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday, he said if he had three wishes he would ask for a method to generate limitless quantities of clean energy, affordable and reliable means of space transport and eliminating the design faults in the human body. He leaves a lasting legacy to modern literature but Sir Arthur will be remembered most for awakening our collective imaginations to the possibilities of the future, a future in which mankind will prosper in peace in the vastness of space.

**Prepared by Sarath Gunatillake**

Former Minister of National Heritage Anura Bandaranaike passed away on 16 March 2008 in Colombo at his official residence, Visumpaya following a period of prolonged illness for which he was hospitalized for several months.

Anura was one time the Minister of Tourism, Industry and Investment in the present Government of Mahinda Rajapaksa. Following the assassination of Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadiragamar in August 2005, Anura held the portfolio of Foreign Minister. In the years 1993 and 1994 he served as the Minister of Higher Education.

He had served as the Speaker under the United National Front government in 2000. He in a way had a successful but controversial political career. He was a politician who stood by the principles he believed in throughout his political career. He was a strong orator and was renowned for his parliamentary speeches when in Opposition.

He was unique, being the only son of two Prime Ministers, Late S.W.R.D. and Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike and the younger brother of former President Chandrika Kumaratunga. He was only 10 years old when his father was assassinated. An old boy of Royal College in Colombo Anura was elected to Parliament in 1977. He was the Leader of the Opposition from 1983 to 1988.

**Anura Bandaranaike**



**Radio Programme Schedule**

Tuesday-Sandella 10.00 PM	Producer/ Panel Operator	Sunday Radio 8.30 AM	Producer/ Panel Operator
1 April 2008	Youth - Nuwan and Thisara/Thisara	6 April 2008	Aravinda & Jayasiri/Aravinda
8 April 2008	Jayantha Weerasekera/Jayasiri	13 April 2008	Dushyantha/Wimal
15 April 2008	Piya & Chintha Bandara & Kosinna/Kosinna	20 April 2008	Gihan/Sandun
22 April 2008	Seetha & Ananda/Ananda	27 April 2008	Nuwan/Aravinda
29 April 2008	(bi-lingual) Jay Wicks & Kosinna/Kosinna	4 May 2008	Aravinda/Aravinda



The Sri Lankan Group of Radio 4EB proudly presents

## "SISINDRA"

*The unique musical show of the award-winning singing duo  
Sisira & Indrani Senaratne*

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2008  
at 6.00pm**

**McGregor State Primary  
School, Sunnybank**

### Tickets

**Adults \$20  
School children \$10  
Family \$50  
Concession \$15**

**Tickets available  
with Committee  
members of Radio  
4EB**

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Music by The Brislinkans

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## SRI LANKA SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND Inc PRESENTS 30th SRI LANKAN NEW YEAR CELEBRATION & CULTURAL CONCERT

*With BREAKAWAYS from Sydney-Played in NSW for 20 Years  
With a specialist Baila Singer*

**Saturday 19 April 2008**

RNA Showgrounds, The Coffee Club, Gregory Terrace  
Begins at 5 for 5.30 pm. Tickets will not be sold at the gate  
Non Members \$60.00

Members (Please Renew Your Membership for 2008) \$50.00

Students (with I.D.) & Pensioners \$35.00

Children Under 12 \$15.00 & Under 6 \$10.00

DRESS: Smart Casual/National Dress

Traditional Sri Lankan Dinner Included – BAR FACILITIES AVAILABLE

BYO prohibited by RNA Showground Authority.

Hiran Cooray 0411480337, Pushpa Jayasekara 3300 9911, Ronnie Anandappa 3818 3903, Swarna Wijesekara 3343 1558,

Prabath Alwis 3350 3542 or 0432336509, Kanaji Wijesekara 3206 1660, Dhavina Mendis 3376 0351, Sama Adhikari 3300 2278



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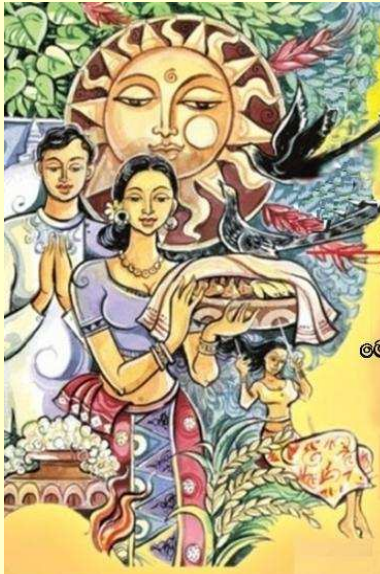
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Editors - Jayantha Ameratunga & Jayantha Weerasekera

Advisory Committee: Vasanthe Vithanage, Jayasiri Weerawardena and Wimal Kannangara



**Brisbane Events**



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**Mount Crosby**

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**Bak Maha Ulela**

20 April 8.30am onwards

Bring your family and enjoy games and activities - Kotta pore, Kamba adima, Avurudu kumari/kumaraya, Kana mutti, Musical chairs, Sack race, and more!

Enjoy Kiri bath, lunu miris, kesel, kavung, kokis, pol toffee to name a few. Lunch will also be provided.

Bashitha Wickramasuriya: 0438 100521  
Nayana Gunasekera: 0430 557211

**R.R. Samarakoon Stage Drama**

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**AHASIN WETUNU MINISSU**

April 25 Friday 2008 at 6pm

**Macgregor State Primary School**

McCullough Street, MacGregor

Tickets: Adults \$20, Students \$15, Children \$10  
Concession \$15, Family \$50

In aid of Sri Lanka Buddhist Monastery

114, Considine St., Elen Grove QLD 4078

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DAYA 38497767

KAMAL 38792686

SARATH 32795992

TEMPLE 38793244

*The Sri Lanka Sports Association Of Queensland Inc.*

**DINNER-DANCE on Friday 4th July 2008  
at the Sir Walter Burnett Hall - RNA Grounds**

Table of 10 - \$550 (10 tickets must be purchased)  
Individual Tickets - \$60.00 Children Under 14 - \$45.00



Jayantha Pathikirikorale - 3808 2299  
Davenal Flanderka - 3878 1667  
or any other committee member

Nimal De Silva - 040 662 28 28  
Sarath Weerasinghe - 3868 6407

**SINHALA ASSOCIATION—COMMITTEE 2008**

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Secretary - Nayana Gunasekera Cultural Secretary - Lalantha Jayasekera Education Secretary - Indrani Doloswala  
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